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Message Text

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73
ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 COA-02 EB-11 L-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: EFIS,SENV, TBIO, JA
SUBJECT: DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN IWC COMMISSIONERS - MR. FUJITA
AND DR. WHITE-MAY 31, 1974

REF: STATE 103029

1. SUMMARY: SUBJECT DISCUSSIONS RESULTED IN AGREEMENT
TO DISAGREE ON THE MAJOR ISSUE OF A LONG-RANGE MANAGEMENT
PRINCIPLE. JAPANESE INTRANSIGENCE ON THIS MAJOR ISSUE
OVERSHADOWED MINOR CONCESSIONS. ALTHOUGH MEETINGS
GENERALLY FRIENDLY, U.S. CONVINCED JAPAN NOT INCLINED TO BE
FORTHCOMING ON CONSERVATION ISSUES AT 26TH SESSION IWC.

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2. JAPANESE STATED THEY WILL NOT PRESS FOR QUOTA OF MORE

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THAN 8,000 MINKE WHALES IN THE ANTARCTIC. WITH OBVIOUS EXPECTION OF SWAYING SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE TO THEIR VIEWPOINT OF 8,000, JAPANESE INDICATED HOPE THAT SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE WOULD BE IN AGREEMENT ON ESTIMATES OF MSY LEVEL FOR MINKE WHALES AND PROPOSED SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING IF SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE NOT ABLE TO AGREE IN JUNE.

3. JAPANESE STATED THEY HAVE INVITED OTHER THREE NATIONS (USSR, AUSTRALIA, SOUTH AFRICA) TAKING SPERM WHALES IN SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE TO MEET PRIOR TO IWC TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS NECESSARY TO ENABLE ALL FOUR TO ACCEPT QUOTAS BY AREA AND SIX FOR SPERM WHALES. THEY ALSO INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO FURTHER REDUCE QUOTA ON FIN WHALES IN THE ANTARCTIC BUT

COULD NOT ACCEPT ANY NEW PRINCIPLE WHICH WOULD IMPLY NO TAKE OF FIN WHALES.

4. HOWEVER, ON ISSUE OF 50 PERCENT AUTOMATIC MORATORIUM, OR ANY SIMILAR NEW PRINCIPLE, THEY WERE COMPLETELY INTRANSIGENT. THEY FEEL CURRENT METHOD OF PROCEDURE IN COMMISSION ESTABLISHING QUOTAS FROM YEAR-TO-YEAR ACCORDING TO ESTIMATES OF SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AT MAXIMUM SUSTAINABLE YIELD LEVEL OR AT LEVELS WHICH WILL RESTORE DEPLETED STOCKS TO THAT LEVEL IS ACCEPTABLE AND IS ONLY WAY TO PROCEED.

5. WHILE STRESSING THAT HE IN NO WAY MEANT TO THREATEN,

WHITE MENTIONED THE APPLICABILITY OF THE PELLY AMENDMENT (REFTEL).

6. THROUGHOUT AFTERNOON MEETING, MAY 31, LASTING 2 1/2 HOURS AND DURING DINNER U.S. COMMISSIONER STRESSED NEED FOR LONGER RANGE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MECHANISM BUT MET ONLY OPPOSITION FROM JAPANESE. JAPANESE REPEATEDLY REFERRED TO SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE DATA SHOWING THEIR WHALING IS NOT DEPLETING FIN WHALE STOCKS IN ANTARCTIC. IMPLICATION U.S. WILLING TO SEE HIGHER MINKE QUOTA IN ANTARCTIC IN RETURN FOR ACCEPTANCE NEW PRINCIPLE AND NO FIN WHALING RECEIVED NO RESPONSE.
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7. BOTH COMMISSIONERS AGREED UNDERSTAND PRESSURES (I.E. PRESSURES OF CONSERVATION MOVEMENT IN U.S. AND OF FISHING INDUSTRY IN JAPAN) ON THE OTHER AND WILL MEET PRIOR TO IWC AND DURING IWC TO MAINTAIN THIS UNDERSTANDING. KISSINGER

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